

Serial No. 09/520,677
Page 9 of 10

REMARKS

This response is intended as a full and complete response to the final Office Action mailed June 14, 2005. In the Office Action, the Examiner notes that claims 1-36 are pending of which claims 1-6, 10-13, 15-27, and 31-36 are rejected and claims 7-9, 14 and 28-30 are objected to. By this response, Applicant herein amends claims 1, 8, 10, 19, and 29-30. Claims 7, 11-14, and 28, and 31-35 are hereby cancelled.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 7, 14, and 28 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, Applicant has herein amended independent claims 1, 10, and 19 to include the limitations of claims 7, 14, and 28, respectively, as well as any intervening claims, thereby placing claims 1, 10, and 19 in condition for allowance. As such, in view of both the amendments presented above and the following discussion, Applicant submits that none of the claims now pending in the application are obvious under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §103.

It is to be understood that Applicant, by amending the claims, does not acquiesce to the Examiner's characterizations of the art of record or to Applicant's subject matter recited in the pending claims. Further, Applicant is not acquiescing to the Examiner's statements as to the applicability of the art of record to the pending claims by filing the instant responsive amendments.

Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 10-13, 15-27 and 31-36 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 6,172,963 issued January 9, 2001 to Larsson et al. (hereinafter "Larsson") in view of U.S. 5,978,359, issued November 2, 1999 to Caldara et al. (hereinafter "Caldara") and U.S. 6,249,819 issued June 19, 2001 to Hunt et al. (hereinafter "Hunt").

The Applicant has herein amended independent claims 1, 10, and 19 to include the limitations of the allowable claims and any intervening claims, as

Serial No. 09/520,677
Page 10 of 10

suggested by the Examiner. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's rejection is now moot.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner has objected to claims 7-9, 14 and 28-30 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicant has herein amended the independent claims 1, 10, and 19 from which claims 7-9, 14 and 28-30 depend to include all of the limitations of the objected to claims and any intervening claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims presently in the application are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Thus, Applicant submits that all claims presently in the application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of the application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited. If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Eamon J. Wall at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

8/15/05

EJ Wall
Eamon J. Wall
Reg. No. 39,414
(732) 530-9404

Moser, Patterson & Sheridan, LLP
595 Shrewsbury Avenue
Suite 100
Shrewsbury, New Jersey 07702

374669-1